

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: 24 March 2005

Comment Deadline: 22 April 2005 Corps Action ID #: 200531324

All interested parties are herby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant:

Rowan County

Mr. Tim Russell

130 West Innes Street Salisbury, NC 28144

AGENT (if applicable):

S&ME, Inc.

Mr. Chris Daves 134 Suber Road

Columbia, SC 29210

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and a decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

Location

The proposed project is located at the existing Rowan County Airport, located on the north side of Airport Road, west of NC Highway 29, in Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina (35.6541702°N -80.519193°W). The project site is specifically located at the intersection of Airport Loop Road and Airport Road, near the southern runway. The site contains wetlands that are adjacent to stream channels located on the site. The stream channel is an unnamed tributary to Grants Creek, which ultimately flows into the Yadkin River. The Yadkin River reaches the Atlantic Ocean through Winyah Bay in South Carolina.

Existing Site Conditions

The proposed expansion area is located adjacent to existing hangars and is comprised of forested and cleared land. This area is located in a headwater landscape position and drains in the general

direction of northeast through an unnamed tributary to Grants Creek. Existing soils mapping provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates the proposed expansion area contains two soil series: Vance and Chewacla. The NRCS considers the Chewacla mapping unit a somewhat poorly drained soil with hydric inclusions (USDA, unpublished).

Approximately 0.67 acre of an emergent wetland is located on the project site. Dominant vegetation in this area is comprised of: Black Willow (Salix nigra), Blackberry (Rubus betulifolius), Soft Rush (Juncus effusus), Cat-tails (Typha latifolia), and Smartweed (Panicum spp.). Soils in the wetland area are considered low chroma with concretions. This wetland area drains into a perennial stream located on the site. Approximately 287 linear feet of perennial stream channel is present that drains off the property to the north. A vegetated riparian buffer is located adjacent to the stream and consists of the following species: Tulipifera liriodendron, Liquidambar styraciflua, Acer rubrum, Alnus serrulata, Carpinus caroliniana, Smilax rotundifolia, and Rubus betulifolius.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The purpose of this project is to increase the available storage and maintenance capacities for local commercial and private aircraft at the Rowan County Airport. Rowan County proposes to construct six airplane hangars to provide the needed storage.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction of six airplane hangars, 66 parking spaces, and an entrance road on the southeastern portion of the Rowan County Airport. The applicant has indicated that each hangar will be 8,000 square feet in size with metal siding and placed on concrete slab flooring. The applicant is proposing 66 parking spaces located adjacent to the hangars. The number of parking spaces complies with the local parking ordinance.

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice in the NCDWQ Central Office in Raleigh serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Ms. Cyndi Karoly by April 22, 2005.

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that the proposed project will have no effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat.

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

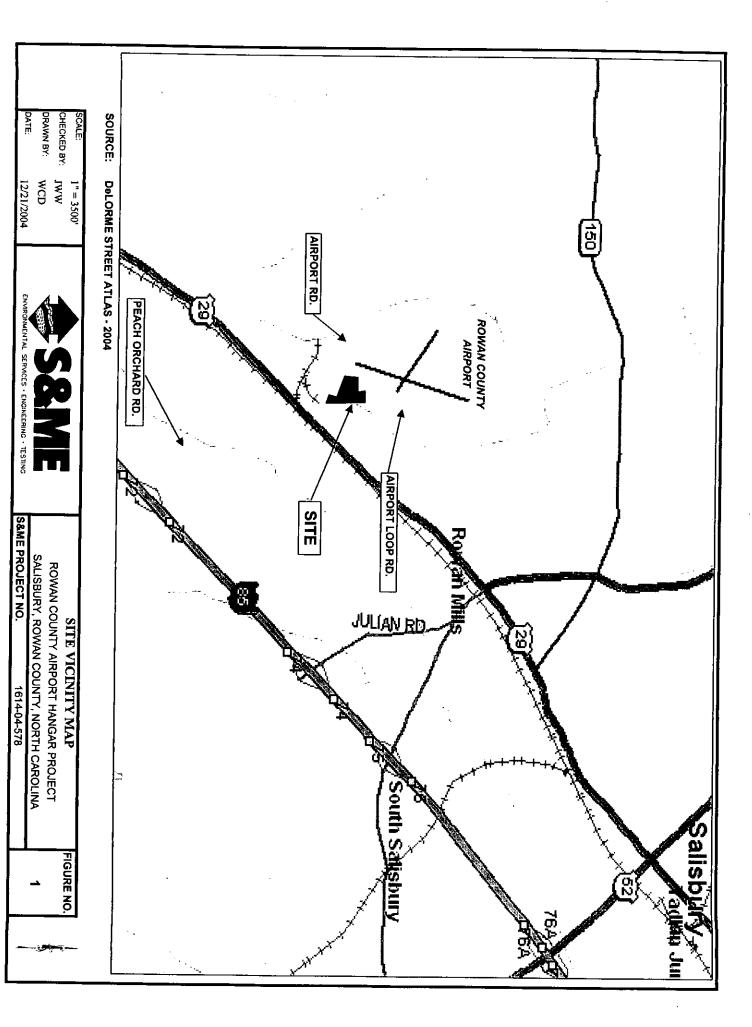
Commenting Information

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine

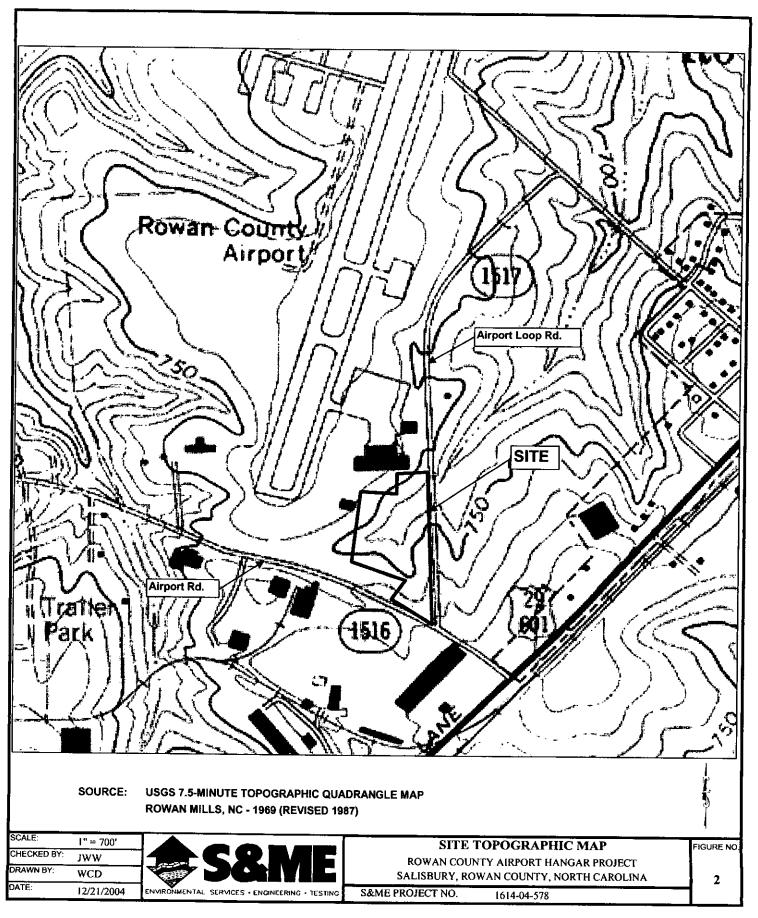
whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm on Friday, April 22, 2005. Comments should be submitted to Ms. Amanda Jones, 151 Patton Avenue, Room 208, Asheville, North Carolina 28801-5006.



AID: 200531324





** NUMBERS CORRESPOND WITH PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS

WETLAND (0.67 ac.)

SOURCE:

ROWAN COUNTY GIS WEBSITE 2002 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

STREAM (287 If.)

SCALE: 1" = 270'

CHECKED BY: JWW

DRAWN BY: WCD

DATE: 12/21/2004



SITE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
ROWAN COUNTY AIRPORT HANGAR PROJECT
SALISBURY, ROWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

S&ME PROJECT NO. 1614-04-578

FIGURE NO:

ATT 200531324